

DETAILED ACTION

Claims

Claim 11 is amended. Claim 13 is canceled by Applicant.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to independent claim 1, a thorough search of relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, an image display system as claimed comprising: a liquid crystal display panel, a light source which emits light having a first polarization and light having a second polarization orthogonal to the first polarization onto the liquid crystal display panel,

a filter disposed between the liquid crystal display panel and the light source comprising:

optical means which refracts the light having the first polarization in a different direction than the light having the second polarization wherein the linear light-emitting source comprises a plurality of center prisms, disposed in the center portion which and a plurality of peripheral prisms, disposed in the peripheral portions wherein the center prisms focus light passing therethrough to a greater degree than the peripheral prisms.

The closest prior art is Sato et al. (WO 01/59508 A1, using US 6,864,862 B2 as

the US equivalent document), in view of Weindorf et al. (US 2002/0140880 A1) and Holman et al. (US 6,871,982 B2), as applied above.

However, no prior art with proper motivation to combine was found to render obvious the particular combination of design specific limitations as claimed.

Dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-12 properly depend from claim 1 with allowable subject matter above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIMOTHY RUDE whose telephone number is (571)272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex Time Program.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nelms C. David can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2871

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TIMOTHY RUDE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2871